

MRCE

Midwest Regional Center of Excellence
for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research



Midwest Research Institute

Washington
University in St. Louis



October 20, 2003

The Midwest Regional Center of Excellence (MRCE) for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research is an NIH-supported Multi-Institutional Center whose mission is to expand the scope and quality of research in biodefense and emerging infectious diseases in the region, with the goal of developing the next generation of diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics against selected biologic threats. As part of this mission, the MRCE will make its resources available to the region encompassing Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and parts of Ohio in the event of bioterrorist or infectious disease threats. These resources are expected to be utilized at the discretion of Federal or State authorities. We recognize that you have already established emergency networks for your region and identified the primary response teams; the MRCE is prepared to serve in a supporting or consulting capacity for your response effort. The MRCE's resources include:

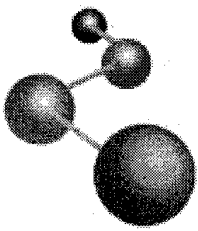
Clinical expertise

- Virology (West Nile & Dengue Viruses, Poxviruses)
- Waterborne pathogens (*Entamoeba histolytica*, *Cryptosporidium parvum*, *Giardia lamblia*, *E. coli* 0150, *Shigella*, *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *Yersinia*)
- Vaccinology (influenza & smallpox)
- Aerosol biology

Diagnostic services

- Molecular diagnostics (detection of bacteria, viruses, and parasites)
- Pathogen discovery
- Genotyping
- Comparative sequencing

In order to provide effective help, we need to receive early notification in the event of a bioterrorism event or emerging disease outbreak. We wish to become part of the contacts within your existing emergency network. Our contact information in the event of an emergency is summarized in the grey box below. If your notification system is based on pagers, we are prepared to purchase the necessary equipment. Upon notification, the MRCE Executive Committee will meet immediately to discuss the threat and MRCE response. We believe we can offer specialized support in a number of areas, and hope you will include the MRCE in your emergency response planning. We would greatly appreciate receiving information on the region you serve, whatever information you can provide on the current organization plan for emergency



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responses, and acknowledgement of the MRCE offer of support. We look forward to hearing from you, and would be happy to personally answer any questions you have about MRCE services.

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